

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0441.P1

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 9A. This sheet, which includes Figs. 9A-9B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 9A-9B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 16, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 16, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

In the specification, the paragraphs 0037-0039 have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

In the drawings, FIG. 9A has been amended to correct a minor error in the reference numbers.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Goldman et al.* (U.S. 5,590,229, hereinafter *Goldman*).

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim,... *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Goldman* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth" in the rejected claims. For example, *Goldman* does not disclose "a second alignment feature for properly rotationally aligning each termini of said first plurality of termini with each termini of said second plurality of termini" as claimed in independent claim 1. The alignment features cited by the Examiner 44, 46 as corresponding to the second alignment features serve to align the connector ends (see col. 5, lines 1-3), but do not rotationally align each termini with a mating pair, as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit claims 1, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over *Goldman* and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by *Goldman* in view of *Lampert* (U.S. 5,067,783). Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35

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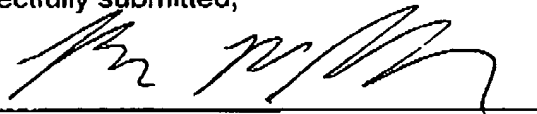
U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by *Goldman* in view of *Knutsen et al.* (U.S. 5,067,783). Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by *Goldman* in view of *Linden et al.* (U.S. 5,301,213).

Claims 3-4, 9-10 and 11-12 all depend from claim 1, however, which Applicants submit is patentable over *Goldman*. Accordingly, Applicants submit these claims are also patentable and request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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